

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

JANUARY 18 - 25

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Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30

Sunday: 9.00, 9.45 (Convent)

10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday

7.30 Tuesday only

Parish Staff

Fr. Joe McDonald P.P. Tel 6 265 119

Rev. Bill O'Shaughnessy, Deacon

Sr. Anne Marie Moynihan

Parish Sister

Secretary: Moya Doyle Tel 6 265 695

Parish Office: 9.30 - 2.00 Mon to Thu

Email:

stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com

Baptism

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

1st Sunday of each month

Preparation meetings for Parents
and Godparents are held twice
each month.

Details available in sacristy.

A month's notice is required.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mon 10.30 – 4.00

Wed 10.30 – 9.00

Fri 10.30 – 9.00

Eucharistic



Adoration

Divine Mercy Meeting

Every Wed Evening @ 8.00

in the Prayer Room

Parish Centre

Tea/Coffee & Chat after

10.00 Mass Mon - Fri

BOOK OF THE WEEK
REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM
A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose.
MATTHEW KELLY

Beacon Publishing 2010 Cincinnati Ohio Pp 311

This is a thought provoking book for anybody who would like to give their faith an overhaul. It is readable. It will lead to good questions not only about how we live our faith but also why we do certain things in trying to be a good Christian. My main concern is around how well the material translates in application from its original American context to our own Irish context. Even with this caveat it still has something to say and is worth a

FAITH MOMENT

The Gospels give us the record of the whole life of Christ from his birth, his miracles and teachings, his examples of love and compassion, to his passion and death on the cross and his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven.

Gospel Readings for the Week

MON	16/01	Mk 2: 18-22	ST. ANTHONY, ABBOT New wine, fresh skins!
TUE	17/01	Mk 2: 23-28	The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
WED	18/01	Mk 3: 1-6	Grieved to find them so obstinate, he looked angrily around at them
THU	19/01	Mk 3: 7-12	But he warned them strongly not to make him known
FRI	20/01	Mk 3: 13-19	He appointed twelve; they were to be his companions...
SAT	21/01	Mk 3: 20-21	ST. AGNES, VIRGIN AND MARTYR Convinced he was out of his mind

Mass Intentions

6.30 Saturday 14 Jan

Ann, Patrick Fallon, Lillie Burke

09.00 Sunday 15 Jan

Mary, Charles Venables

12.00 Sunday 15 Jan

Bernard, Teresa Murray, Joe Fleming,
Bridget Roche, Samuel Kelly

Recent Baptisms

in St. Matthew's

To be filled in this morning

Rumblings from the Bunker



A TOUGH BUT REWARDING TASK FOR 2017

You may remember that over the New Year I shared with you the idea that I was really only going to make one New Years resolution and that that was by the end of 2017 I would hope to know Jesus of Nazareth better, and have deepened my relationship with him. The 'rumblings' this week, in a way, mark the first tentative steps in this regard. I suppose if I am honest the quest for the real Jesus has become for me almost a pre-occupation. Of course the quest or search for the historical Jesus is not new and forms a huge branch of study in itself. Much has been written on this. What I am proposing is a little different. I recognise, and am very grateful for the huge volume of scholarship in this area but I do not want my resolution to end up as an intellectual exercise. The purpose of getting to know the real Jesus better, is, for me, specifically to enhance the experience of this unique relationship as loved and loving. In addition to this it is hoped that this will in turn lead to me being changed, or more accurately, to my conversion being deepened.

From a church perspective I do not think we have done this particularly well. At times we have got distracted by many other things. I mean what can be more pressing, more valuable for a person of faith than a good intimate knowledge of Jesus? Very often we say things like 'my knowledge of Jesus has not really made any difference to my life', or 'I have not become a better person as a result of knowing Jesus'. Sometimes this is because we have a heady knowledge of Jesus. We know about things he did or what he said. We have not moved from the knowledge of Jesus to the actual encounter with him. This example might help. Many years ago in one of my roles in education I had the task of supervising Night Study. This would involve me supervising nearly a hundred students, eighteen year olds, for two two hour sessions of silent study in a large assembly hall. I soon discovered that many of them did not know how to study. No one had ever shown them, or taught them, how to actually study. I realised that I could work out, through simple observation, who was actually engaged in study. Gradually I started to share this with the students. The student who was reading was reading. Sometimes the reading was passive and leisurely. The student writing notes was doing just that, he was writing notes. None of these students were studying. Studying is not passive, it is active. The students who were studying were using a range of skills. The student who was studying was reading, taking, notes, underlining, summarising, highlighting, formulating key questions, learning off, trying to recall, testing himself. Study is hard work.

If we are serious about having a quality encounter with Jesus it's a bit like that. If we want to, we can choose to stay on a fairly superficial with Jesus. Knowing a little of what he said, maybe some of what he did, but we are not really serious about getting to know him. Getting to know Jesus so that we can have a meaningful encounter with him is not a passive, leisurely hobby. To know Jesus in a way that is central to our lives is no spectator sport. This is not a popcorn evening. This is hard work but the rewards are amazing. Life changing and eternal. Knowing him, and of course he can never be known fully, is only part of the encounter. In addition to knowing him, we must have the self-knowledge and courage to bring our real selves to the encounter. We will only do this if we have some grasp of his mercy and love.

Similar to what is outlined above regarding study the preparation for a meaningful encounter with Jesus involves a number of important activities including, study, reading, key phrases, prayer, selecting a special or sacred place, silence, picking an appropriate time of day. I appreciate this will all sound like a lot of effort. The one thing I am absolutely sure of is that any effort we put into encountering the real Jesus, he will outdo us in generosity. One of the problems with organised and structured religion is that it can make us, as individual pilgrims, a little complacent or even lazy. We can allow ourselves to be spoon fed, which of course is very dependent on the person feeding us, not to mention what's on the spoon! The support of the community is great but there is a uniqueness about our individual relationship with Jesus. The moment it dawns us that he is there for us, and that he delights in us, is truly graced. The engagement that follows from this is an exciting adventure yes, but it should never be forgotten that it is also God's work. It is in the actual adventure, the actively seeking Jesus, that the change within us begins. Sometime soon here in 'rumblings' I intend to write about an actual encounter with Jesus, and to explore a little how it can begin to change our lives at the very deepest level.

Sacristy

**Baptisms Arranged, Certs Obtained
immediately AFTER Mass (Mon – Fri)**

Booking Masses

Masses should only be booked in the Sacristy

To book a Mass you should:

- ✦ **Come to the Sacristy after Mass**
- ✦ **See it entered into the Mass Diary**
- ✦ **Check the Date & Time**
- ✦ **Look for a copy of the Entry**

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

From 18-25 January, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held. Here in St. Matthew's the text of the Mass and some of the homilies will reflect this.

Notices for Newsletter

Notices for inclusion in the Newsletter must be in by 12.30pm on Friday. The Newsletter goes to the printers on the following Tuesday at 1pm.

Notices will be included only if space permits.

Please keep them as short as possible.

Send notices to the Parish Centre at

stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com

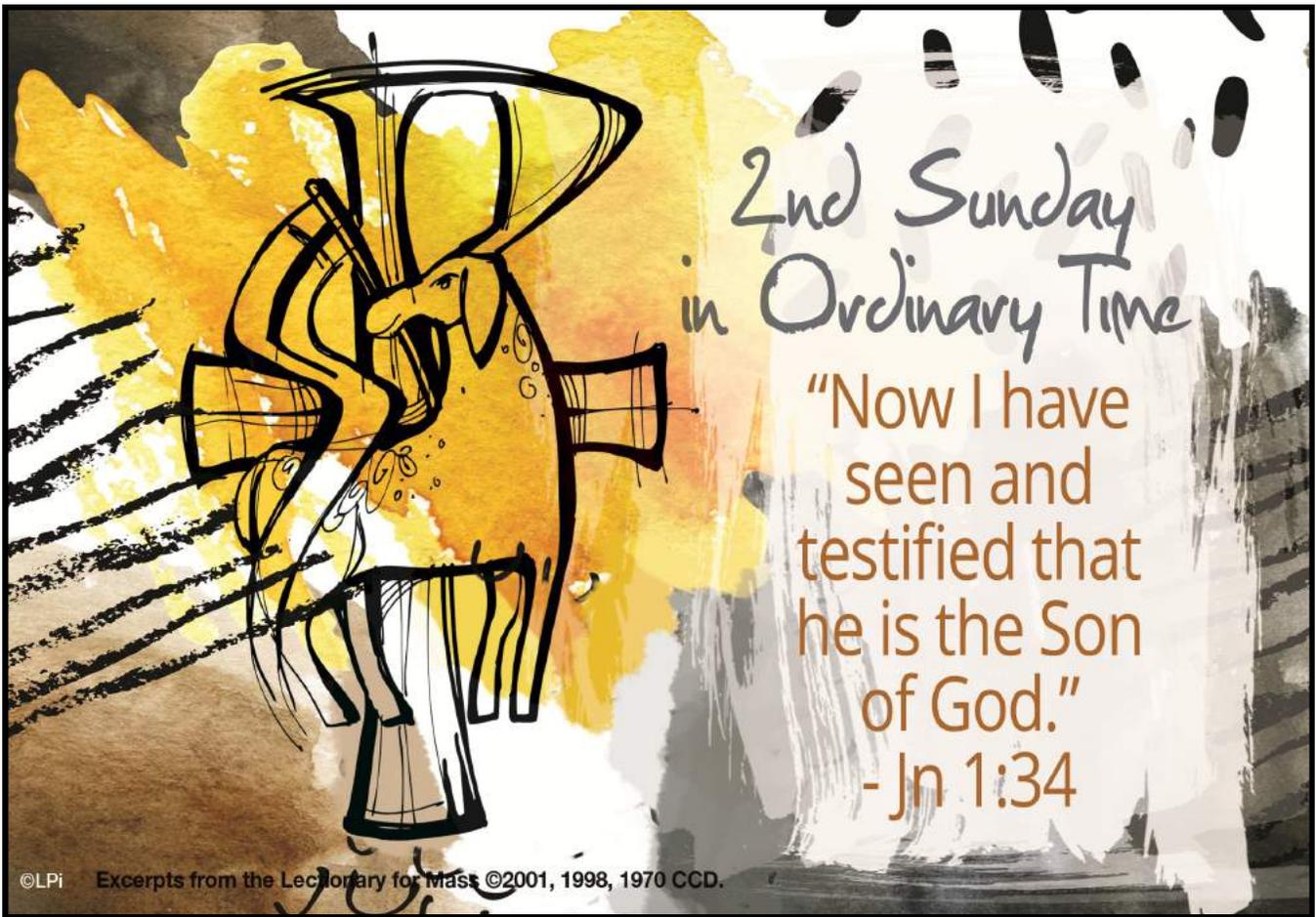
or phone 626 56 95

PARISH SHOP

**Cards, Calendars,
Candles**

and much more
available at the shop
in the Parish Centre





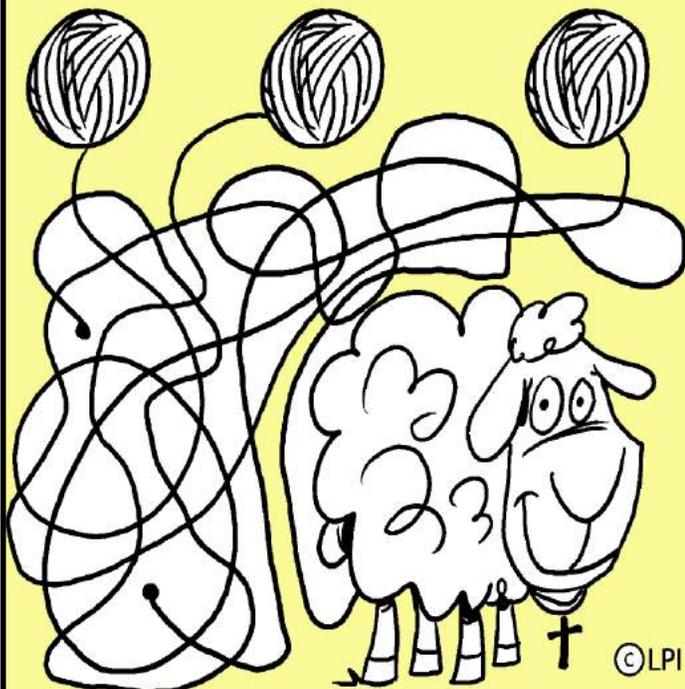
2nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time

"Now I have
seen and
testified that
he is the Son
of God."
- Jn 1:34

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 Puzzle

Which ball of yarn leads to the Lamb of God?



Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist told everyone that Jesus was the Son of God. He told them the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus and remained on him as the Scriptures said. Jesus taught his disciples and others. He healed people to show his power as the Son of God. God wants you to be his disciple. He wants you to be a good example of a loving child of God.

Prayer

Lord, I will be a good disciple by learning and sharing your words.

Something to Draw

Draw John pointing out Jesus as the Son of God.

Mission for the Week

I will ask someone to read the Bible to me every day.

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1-800-950-9952 x2469 LPiResourceCenter.com

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**WEEKLY ROSARY
IN THE PRAYER ROOM**

Every Monday in the Prayer Room at 11am.
This is an initiative of the Marian Movement.

**St. Matthew's Church
Bethany Support Group**

If at any time you feel the need for support or a listening ear after the loss of a loved one we would be glad to help.

**CONTACT PHONE
087 9411628**

Church Collections

Collection Date	1/1/17
First Collection	840
Share Collection	590
Family Offering	1025

Visit our website

www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com

or our Facebook page,

[www.facebook.com/
st.matthews.ballyfermot/](http://www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/)

INVITATION

DEAR FRIENDS,

Here in St. Matthew's we are happy that we have a lively parish. It's a busy parish and we strive to be with people at the joyful and sad moments of life in a spirit of Gospel service.

We are fortunate to have good attendance at Mass and other ceremonies and we continue to be blessed with many highly committed volunteers. However we really need your help.

Surely you could read at Mass, once a month? (Training provided)

Perhaps, after training, you could help distribute Holy Communion?

Maybe you could give an hour a week to help clean the Church?

Would you consider joining us on the Parish Pastoral Council?

Do you play keyboard? Guitar? Drums? Violin? Saxophone?

Would you commit to once a month?

Would you help take up the collections at Mass?

Would you help count money?

My friends, not only do we want to keep St. Matthew's going we want to develop it. More, now than ever we need your help. I would be very grateful for any assistance you can give us in this regard.

Many Thanks, Fr Joe 0863602680.